WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating a patent foramen ovale, the method comprising:

advancing a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and a closure device near the distal end of the catheter into the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale; and

fixing the closure device within the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein fixing the closure device includes passing energy into or through the closure device to cause adhesion between the closure device and tissue adjacent the patent foramen ovale.

3. A method as in claim 2, wherein bipolar radiofrequency energy is used to cause adhesion of the closure device to the tissue.

4. A method as in claim 2, wherein monopolar radiofrequency energy is used to cause adhesion of the closure device to the tissue.

5. A method as in claim 2, wherein passing energy comprises applying resistive heating, ultrasound, microwave or laser energy.

6. A method as in claim 2, wherein passing energy into or through the closure device includes heating conductive particles within the closure device to cause adhesion.

7. A method as in claim 2, wherein passing energy into the closure device includes energizing a single conductive element of the catheter system.

8. A method as in claim 2, wherein passing energy into the closure device includes energizing a multiple conductive elements of the catheter system.

9. A method as in claim 1 or claim 6, wherein fixing the closure device within the patent foramen ovale tunnel includes activating tissue solder or adhesive to cause the adhesion.

10. A method as in claim 9, wherein activating the tissue solder or adhesive comprises rupturing solder- or adhesive-filled compartments within the closure device.

11. A method as in claim 9, wherein tissue adhesive is infused into the patent foramen ovale tunnel while energy is being applied within the tunnel.

12. A method as in claim 1, further comprising adhering a skirt segment of the closure device to tissue surrounding a right atrial opening of the patent foramen ovale.

13. A method as in claim 1, wherein advancing the closure device into the patent foramen ovale includes providing lateral force to the patent foramen ovale.

14. A method as in claim 13, wherein advancing the closure device into the patent foramen ovale further includes providing dilatory force to the patent foramen ovale.

15. A method as in claim 1, wherein advancing the closure device into the patent foramen ovale includes engaging a positive stop to the periphery of the patent foramen ovale to control depth penetration of the treatment apparatus and/or closure device into the patent foramen ovale.

16. A method as in claim 1, claim 14 or claim 15, wherein advancing the closure device into the patent foramen ovale further includes allowing the closure device to expand within the patent foramen ovale prior to or during fixation.

17. A method as in claim 1, wherein advancing the closure device through the patent foramen ovale includes engaging a backstop member with a left atrial side of the patent foramen ovale to enhance fixation of the closure device.

18. A method of treating a patent foramen ovale, the method comprising:

advancing a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and a closure device near the distal end of the catheter into the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale; and

applying energy to the closure device to cause adhesion between the closure device and tissue adjacent the patent foramen ovale, thereby fixing the closure device within the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale.

19. A method as in claim 18, wherein bipolar radiofrequency energy is used to cause adhesion of the closure device to the tissue.

20. A method as in claim 18, wherein monopolar radiofrequency energy is used to cause adhesion of the closure device to the tissue.

21. A method as is claim 18, wherein applying energy to the closure device comprises applying energy to at least one bioresorbable matrix.

22. A method as is claim 18, wherein applying energy to the closure device comprises applying energy to at least one non-resorbable patch.

23. A method as in claim 22, wherein the energy is applied to a patch comprising at least one of a tissue adhesive and a tissue solder.

24. A method of treating a patent foramen ovale, the method comprising:

advancing a catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and a closure device near the distal end of the catheter adjacent the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale;

exposing at least one conducting element from the catheter;

advancing the conducting element into the patent foramen ovale; and

applying energy to the closure device to cause adhesion between the closure device and tissue adjacent the patent foramen ovale, thereby fixing the closure device within the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale.

25. Apparatus for treating a patent foramen ovale, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate catheter having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one closure device releasably coupled with the catheter near the distal end, wherein the closure device may be fixedly deployed within the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale.

26. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein no part of the at least one closure device extends into the left atrium.

27. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the at least one closure device comprises a bioresorbable matrix.

28. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the at least one closure device comprises a non-resorbable patch.

29. Apparatus as in claim 25, further including at least one backstop member coupled with the catheter for engaging left atrial tissue adjacent the patent foramen ovale to enhance positioning of the patch within the tunnel.

30. Apparatus as in claim 25, further including at least one expandable balloon member for deploying the patch within the tunnel.

31. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the at least one closure device is doped with materials which aid in conduction or reduce resistance or impedance.

32. Apparatus as in claim 31, wherein the doped materials form specific pathways of increased conduction, or reduced resistance or impedance.

33. Apparatus as in claim 31 or claim 32, wherein the doping materials are selected from the group consisting of gold, platinum, iridium, tantalum, tungsten, sodium chloride, alloys or combinations thereof, and resorbable metals such as iron and nickel alloys.

34. Apparatus as in claims 25, 31, 32 or 33, wherein the at least one closure device further comprises at least one tissue solder or adhesive.

35. Apparatus as in claims 25, 31, 32 or 33, wherein the at least one closure device is designed to absorb blood, the blood acting as an autologous tissue adhesive.

36. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein the closure device expands to fill the tunnel of the patent foramen ovale.

37. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein application of energy to the closure device causes the closure device to conform to geometry of the patent foramen ovale.

38. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein application of energy to the closure device fixes the device to tissue of the patent foramen ovale.

39. Apparatus as in claim 25, wherein application of energy to the closure device ruptures solder- or adhesive-filled compartments within the closure device to fix the device to tissue of the patent foramen ovale.

40. Apparatus as in claim 25, further comprising at least one energy transmission member coupled with the catheter body adjacent the distal end for transmitting energy to the closure device.

41. Apparatus as in claim 40, wherein the energy transmission member transmits at least one of radiofrequency, resistive heating, ultrasound, microwave and laser energy.

42. Apparatus for treating a patent foramen ovale, the apparatus comprising:

an elongate catheter body having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one energy transmission member coupled with the catheter body adjacent the distal end for transmitting energy to a closure device and tissue adjacent the patent foramen ovale to induce closure of the patent foramen ovale.

43. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the closure device is mounted on the at least one energy transmission member.

44. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the closure device spans two or more energy transmission members.

45. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the energy transmission member transmits at least one of radiofrequency, resistive heating, ultrasound, microwave and laser energy.

46. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the at least one closure device comprises a bioresorbable matrix.

47. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the at least one closure device comprises a non-resorbable patch.

48. Apparatus as in claim 42, further including at least one backstop member coupled with the catheter for engaging left atrial tissue adjacent the patent foramen ovale to enhance positioning of the patch within the tunnel.

49. Apparatus as in claim 42, further including at least one expandable balloon member for deploying the patch within the tunnel.

50. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein two or more catheter elements apply lateral force to the patent foramen ovale prior to and/or during closure.

51. Apparatus as in claim 50, wherein the two or more catheter elements further apply dilatory forces to the patent foramen ovale prior to and/or during closure.

52. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein transmission of energy to the closure device activates a tissue solder or tissue adhesive to cause fixation of the closure device to tissue of the patent foramen ovale.

53. Apparatus as in claim 42, wherein the at least one energy transmission member transmits energy through a conductive or low resistance/impedance plane or pathway of the closure device.